

WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2021 • Wrangell, Alaska 99929

Telephone: (907) 874-4304

Fax: (907) 874-4305

Email: wcatrbe@gmail.com

August 1, 2017

Robert Dalrymple, District Ranger
Wrangell Ranger District
PO Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929

Re: Wrangell Junkyard Repository Site Concerns

Dear Mr. Dalrymple:

The Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) was recently made aware of the intent to construct the Wrangell Junkyard Repository Site with Ecobond-treated, lead contaminated material on Alaska Department of Natural Resources Pit #2, adjacent to NFS 6259 / Pat's Creek Road in Wrangell, Alaska. As the local Tribal government, we were not formally notified of this project or invited to be involved as a stakeholder. The Wrangell community was also not notified of this project. The construction of a lead contaminated repository adjacent to sites currently and traditionally used by Tribal citizens for vital subsistence activities is a cause of much concern for the Tribe. The purpose of this letter is to formally request the United States Forest Service (USFS) complete a full NEPA review and initiate a public involvement process on the road use for the Wrangell Junkyard Repository project.

According to the July 7, 2017 letter written by Kristin Ryan, Director of the Department of Environmental Conservation, "lead is still present in the material that qualify it as polluted soil under State regulation. If consumed by humans, plants, or animals, the lead may have some bioavailability that is potentially toxic". The repository site and adjacent land is pristine environment, used extensively by Tribal members for subsistence activities, including hunting, fishing, berry and medicinal gathering; wood gathering; and recreational activities. The Tribe has a historic connection to this land tracing back through the generations. Tribal citizens also practice subsistence activities along the route the lead-contaminated material will travel before reaching the repository.

The WCA, in keeping with its mission to support the cultural, subsistence and ceremonial lifestyle of all Alaskans, and to promote the availability of a healthy environment for present and future generations, formally requests the USFS complete a full NEPA review and public involvement process on the road use for the Wrangell Junkyard Repository Site project.

I may be contacted at (907) 874-4304 or at wcatrube@gmail.com. We appreciate your timely assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel Campus', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

Samuel Campus

Tribal Vice President

Wrangell Cooperative Association